

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Mastercraft

Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Mastercraft Furniture Company Takes Advantage of Facility Move to Improve Efficiency

Client Profile:

Mastercraft Furniture Company was recently purchased and moved from Omaha, Nebraska to Council Bluffs, Iowa. The company manufactures furniture for homes and businesses, employs 50 people, and generates approximately \$15 million in average annual nationwide sales.

Situation:

When Mastercraft Furniture decided to move from a sprawling plant with 130,000 square feet of floor space to a new plant with 66,000 square feet, the company enlisted the help of the Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership (IMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to create a new factory layout and equipment placement strategy prior to the move.

Solution:

IMEP assessed Mastercraft Furniture's needs and referred the company to Iowa State University's Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS), an IMEP partner. CIRAS developed a plant simulation and layout process that helped Mastercraft Furniture predetermine ways to configure plant equipment to achieve significant productivity improvements. CIRAS established a baseline model for the existing plant, against which it compared proposed layouts for the new plant. This model helped the company evaluate CIRAS's proposed layout and develop an efficient system that better utilized the space and improved product flow.

Results:

- * Reduced required floor space by approximately 50 percent.
- * Expedited relocation process.
- * Established a foundation for future growth and expansion plans.

Testimonial:

"The plant layout [we developed with the help of the Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Center for Industrial Research and Service] helped significantly when moving because we could basically place the equipment where we had it laid out. Additionally, it reduced the moving time to less than a week. The new floor plan brings everything closer together, making it much more efficient. We plan to grow our employee base, and we think we can probably double our sales and add another 25 percent the year after."

Barry Nadler, President